

City Hall, 525 Henrietta Street



Martinez, CA 94553-2394

February 29, 2008

MRP Tentative Order Comments
Attn. Dale Bowyer
S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: MRP Tentative Order Comments

Dear Mr. Bowyer:

The City of Martinez fully supports the Regional Boards efforts and goals on providing the highest quality storm water run-off to our streams and bay. We also appreciate the Bay Area wide consistency the Board is seeking in developing the proposed Municipal Regional Permit (Permit.) However, the City does have three primary concerns with the proposed Permit.

1. ***The ability we may have in the future to construct new bike and pedestrian facilities and reconstruct our deteriorated roadways:*** We were supportive to hear Board staff indicate at a recent Contra Costa City Manager Association meeting they will recommend limiting the new MRP requirements to Arterial roadways only. However, we believe the benefits of providing bike lanes and pedestrian ways promotes the goals of not only your Board but also that of the Air Quality Control Board. We also want to recognize there are severe shortages of funds to reconstruct our failing roadway systems. These funds have been diluted with ADA requirements to construct accessible ramps at all intersection within a roadway reconstruction area. With the State's current fiscal crisis these funds have become even scarcer. It would be more feasible to limit the new MRP requirements to new construction of Arterial roadways. Most new residential roads are constructed by developers and the City will apply the new requirements to these projects.
2. ***The ability to fund litter removal to the extent required in the proposed regulations:*** The City of Martinez estimates the cost of retrofitting our catch basin system to the extent required to meet the proposed MRP requirements at nearly \$600,000. We also anticipate an additional \$30,000 in maintenance costs associated with this task. The City of Martinez recommends cities are required to implement an aggressive litter control program but not to the extent that would require such large capital outlays with no funding source available.

3. ***Shift in responsibility for Industrial Facility inspections:*** Currently selected industrial facilities in Martinez require NPDES permits from the State. The proposed MRP requires cities to inspect the facilities for compliance with their NPDES Permits. The City of Martinez does not have the staff or expertise to perform these State inspections. Nor does the City does not have the revenue stream to hire consultants to conduct these States inspections. The City requests this burden not be shifted to cities. We recommend this inspection function remain the responsibility of the State.

The City evaluated the implementation cost of these new requirements. We believe over the next five year the **increased cost to be \$1,346,000.**

In addition to the concerns outlined above, the City of Martinez has reviewed the Contra Costa Clean Water Program response to the MRP. The City fully supports the comments made by the Program.

Sincerely,

Tim Tucker, P.E.
City Engineer

cc: City Council of the City of Martinez
City Manager